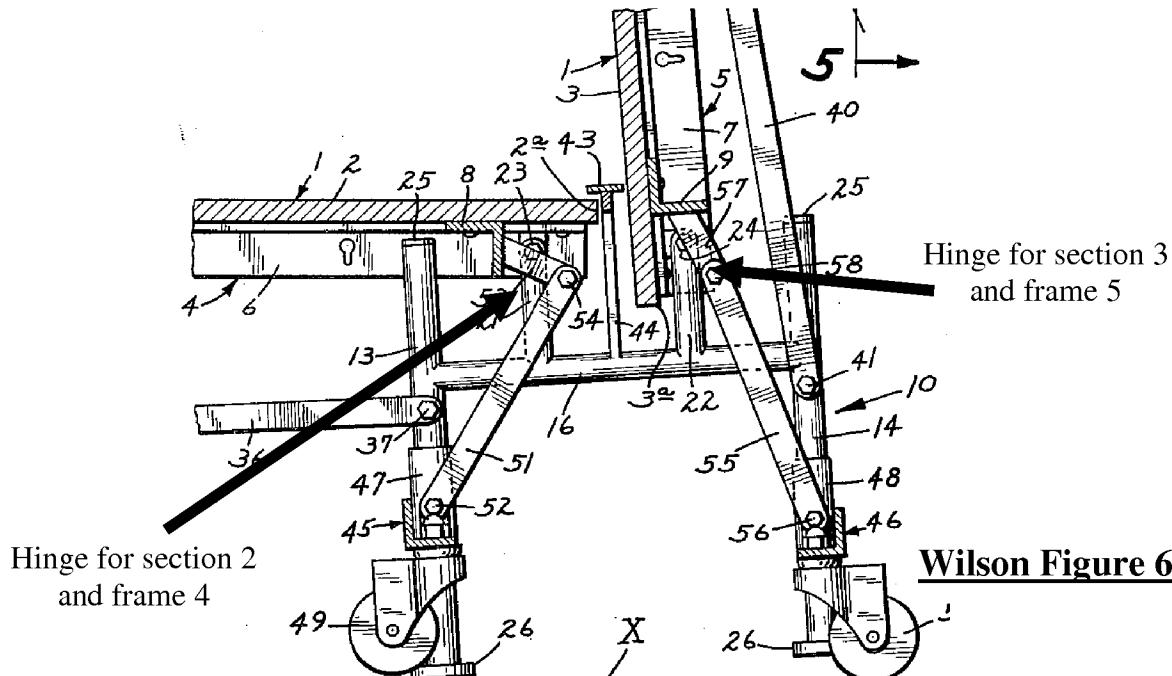


REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained within the latest communication. Claim 11 was allowed in a previous action. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of remaining claims 1-10 and 12-20, and the examination of new claims 21-22.

Claims 1-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,978,754 to *Wilson*. Respectfully, *Wilson* fails to anticipate the claimed invention at least because *Wilson* fails to teach each feature of the claimed invention. As an example, independent claim 1 recites a “platform panel pivotally connected to a second platform panel.” *Wilson* clearly fails to disclose this feature. The Examiner interprets section 2 and frame 4 in *Wilson* as teaching the claimed first platform panel, and section 3 and frame 5 as teaching the claimed second platform panel. The below figure from *Wilson* shows that section 2 and frame 4 are spaced from section 3 and frame 5, not “pivotally connected.” Thus, even if section 2 and frame 4 properly taught the claimed first platform panel, and if section 3 and frame 5 properly taught the claimed second panel (which they do not), *Wilson* would still fail to teach the claimed pivotally connected platform panels.



In *Wilson*, section 2 and frame 4 pivot about an upright arm 21, and section 3 and frame 5 pivot about a separate upright arm 22. The upright arms 21 or 22 are spaced from each other. *Wilson* provides a bridge element 43 solely to span the resulting space between section 2 and section 3. The bridge element 43 blocks these elements from ever attaching to each other, and certainly pivotally attaching.

Wilson fails to teach each feature of claim 1 for at least this reason and claim 1 is therefore patentable. Claims 2-10 and 12-14 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least this reason.

Wilson also fails to disclose a first platform panel that is “supported by at least one ground engaging support and by the second platform panel,” as is claimed. The Examiner relies upon the feet 26, 32 in *Wilson* as teaching this feature. The feet 26, 32 are the only support for section 2 and frame 4, and separate feet 26, 32 are the only support for section 3 and frame 5. *Wilson* thus fails to disclose a first platform panel that is supported by a second platform panel.

Wilson fails to teach each feature of claim 1 for at least this reason and claim 1 is therefore patentable. Claims 2-10 and 12-14 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least this reason.

Claims 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over United States Patent No. 2,978,754 to *Wilson*. These claims are not obvious because the proposed combination does not teach the Applicant’s invention. Applicant’s independent claim 15 recites “platform panels pivotally connected to each other” and that a “platform panel is supported by the at least one ground support connected to the first platform panel and by the second platform panel.” As mentioned in response to the §102 rejections, *Wilson* fails to teach these features. Therefore, a combination relying only upon *Wilson* would also fail to teach these features. Claim 15 is patentable for at least this reason. Claims 16-20 depend from claim 15 and are patentable for at least this reason.

New claim 21-23 include features that are not disclosed in any of the cited references. Claims 21-23 are patentable for at least this reason.

Please charge \$52.00 to Deposit Account No. 15-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for two new claims in excess of twenty. Applicant believes that no additional fees are

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required, however, should any fees or extension of time be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 15-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to issue, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the below indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

/Benjamin J. Coon/
Benjamin J. Coon
Registration No. 57,916
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

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